



September 10, 2004

Newport bank robber is sentenced to 90 months in prison

A federal judge today sentenced **Gregory L. Burcz**, 34, of Newport, to 90 months in federal prison for robbing a teller at a Citizens Bank branch in Newport last September. Burcz threatened a teller by claiming that he had bomb.

United States Attorney Robert Clark Corrente announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. Burcz's criminal record factored into his sentence; it dates back to the late 1980s and includes convictions for larceny, assault, domestic assault, and firearms offenses.

In March, Burcz, of 67 Malbone Road, pleaded guilty to federal bank robbery. At the plea hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard W. Rose said that the government had proof that, on September 17, 2003, Burcz entered Citizens Bank at 11 Washington Square, told a teller that he had a bomb, and demanded, "30 G's, right away." When the teller said she did not have that much money, Burcz said, "all right, give me 20 G's." The teller gave Burcz approximately \$1,396 and he fled the bank.

Newport police identified Burcz from bank surveillance pictures and arrested him later that day with \$1,243 in his possession. Police determined that, during the robbery, Burcz had simulated a bomb with a stick up his sleeve and a hand held counter.

Newport Police investigated the case, with assistance from the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**. Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose prosecuted it.

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